



# **Trouble-shooting Guide for Transmittal Errors**

**Inpatient  
Emergency Department  
Ambulatory Surgery**

Revision 3

State of California  
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)  
Patient Data Section  
400 R Street, Suite 270  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 326-3935

March 2008

## Revisions

Revision No.	Date	Page	Description
2.1	10/20/05	9	Added another "Problem and Possible Resolution" for invalid ED/AS Service Date: Service Date format must be CCYYMMDD. Example, 7/15/05 would be reported as 20050715.
2.1	2/3/06	3	Incorrect File Format: Revised error message to say "and/or" (all 3 data types): <b>IP</b> - No Carriage Control <u>and/or</u> Line Feed at bytes 521 and 522, respectively. <b>ED/AS</b> - No Carriage Control <u>and/or</u> Line Feed at bytes 383 and 384, respectively.
2.2	2/3/06	3	Deleted the "No Carriage Control" transmittal edit for IP, ED and AS: No Carriage Control at byte 521 (IP) No Carriage Control at byte 383 (ED-AS).  This edit was combined with the No Line Feed" edit: "No Carriage Control <b>and/or</b> Line Feed at bytes.....
2.2	2/3/06	7	Updated Item #7: "Possible Resolutions". Added "No Carriage Control" to possible problem and resolutions.
3.0	3/6/08	8-9	Changed ETL for Invalid or Blank Discharge Date or Service Date from 10 records to zero records. Added ways to identify Invalid or Blank dates.  Updated "Possible Resolution" with suggestions for identifying records with "bad" Discharge/Service Dates in the data file.

**A. What are the transmittal error messages MIRCal provides?**

<b>TRANSMITTAL EDIT</b>	<b>ERROR MESSAGE</b>
<b>I. FIRST LEVEL OF EDITING</b>	
Checks for Viruses	Virus infected file. Transmission of data was terminated.
Does the file contain data (Empty File)?	No data contained in the file.
Zip File contains multiple files	Zip File contains multiple files.
<b>II. SECOND LEVEL OF EDITING</b>	
Incorrect File Format	File contains non-ASCII character(s).
Incorrect File Format	IP – Record length is more than 520 bytes. ED/AS – Record length is more than 382 bytes.
Incorrect File Format	IP – Record length is less than 520 bytes. ED/AS – Record length is less than 382 bytes.
Incorrect File Format	IP – No Carriage Control <u>and/or</u> Line Feed at bytes 521 and 522, respectively. ED/AS – No Carriage Control <u>and/or</u> Line Feed at bytes 383 and 384, respectively.
Incorrect File Format	IP – No Line Feed at byte 522. ED/AS – No Line Feed at byte 384.
<b>III. THIRD LEVEL OF EDITING</b>	
Discrepancy in the Total Number of Records submitted	Total number of records submitted does not match the number of records entered on the Transmittal screen. There is a difference of more than 20 records.  NOTE: The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the difference between the number of records actually submitted and the number of records entered in the box on the ‘Transmittal for File Submission’ or ‘Transmittal for Web Entry Records’ screen.
IP: Records with Discharge Dates outside the Report Period  ED/AS: Records with Service Dates outside the Report Period	IP: One or more records are reported with a Discharge Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period. ED/AS: One or more records are reported with a Service Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period. NOTE: The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the number of records with an incorrect Discharge Date (IP) or Service Date (ED/ AS).
Incorrect Facility ID Number	Incorrect Facility ID Number reported.  NOTE: The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the incorrect Facility ID and the number of records affected.
MIRCal database capacity error	MIRCal database capacity error. The number of records in the MIRCal database does not match the number of records submitted. Contact your OSHPD analyst immediately.

## ***B. What do the errors mean and why did I receive the error?***

There are many reasons why data might fail transmittal errors. Problems with data will vary according to the software used at your facility, the operating system, format, etc. It is important to remember the following when addressing transmittal errors:

- The assistance that OSHPD can provide facilities is limited since the physical data files reside at the facility.
- The problem may be “technical” and require assistance from IT resources at the facility.
- One way a facility may check and resolve errors is by opening their file in a “text editor”. The text editor will show the format/codes of the file. Text editor types will vary from facility to facility.
- The following website lists various text editor tools, rates them, and provides background information on them: <http://cws.internet.com>

### **NOTE:**

Files can be opened in WordPad or Notepad, but it will not display “special characters” such as control feeds, line feeds, and end of file characters.

There have been reports on the Microsoft website that some users have encountered problems when opening large files in Notepad. The following error message may be displayed:

**“File (filename) is too large for Notepad; use another editor to change the file”.**

A maximum file size is not specified, and users received this error message on files ranging from 1MG up to 100MB. If you encounter this error, open the file in another text editor such as WordPad, EditPad Lite, or TextPad. All are free downloads.

	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
1.	Virus Infected File	Virus Infected File: Transmission of data terminated.	A virus was detected. Data was rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Notify your IT department to identify and eliminate virus.</li> <li>✓ Create another extract or run file through a virus checker and re-submit file.</li> </ul>
2.	No data contained in file	No data contained in the file.	File submitted was blank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Facility should evaluate the contents of the file to verify and re-submit a file with data.</li> </ul>
3.	Zip file	Zip file contains multiple files.	MIRCal will only accept <b>one</b> file within the zipped file. If multiple files are detected, file will be rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Only one file can be contained within the zipped file.</li> <li>✓ If data is in separate files, it must be combined into a “.txt” file before zipping and submitting.</li> <li>✓ Unzip and re-zip only the intended file.</li> <li>✓ Note: If the zipped file is not in .txt format, MIRCal will accept it and will not fail the “zip file” edit. Instead, it will fail the “incorrect file format” edit.</li> </ul>
4.	Incorrect file format	<p>File contains non-ASCII character(s). The first 60 records are checked.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If data passes this edit and Edit #5: Record Length is more than 520 bytes (IP) or 382 bytes (ED/AS), then this edit (non-ASCII characters) is run again and ALL records in the file are checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data does not have the right character format.</li> <li>• Data may not have been converted from EBCDIC to ASCII or was in mixed mode, containing both EBCDIC and ASCII.</li> <li>• The file cannot contain packed or binary data.</li> <li>• The movement of data from one computer platform to another may affect the ASCII characters. Some common problems occur when data is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Validate character type and convert to ASCII format. Re-submit file.</li> <li>✓ Check settings on FTP programs and modify extracting data from mainframe to PC. Re-submit file.</li> </ul>

	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
			FTP'd (File Transfer Protocol) from a mainframe to a personal computer (PC). FTP programs have various settings that must be changed by IT staff at the facility.	
5.	Incorrect File Format	<p><b>IP</b> - Incorrect File Format: Record length is more than 520 bytes. First 60 records are checked.</p> <p><b>ED/AS</b> - Incorrect File Format: Record length is more than 382 bytes. First 60 records are checked.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If the record length is greater than 520 (IP) or 382 (ED/AS) bytes <u>beyond</u> the first 60 records, then data will fail the transmittal edit for No Line Feed and/or No Carriage Control. See Items 7-8 for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File may have inconsistent record lengths, which will cause the data to be skewed.</li> <li>A diskette with no control-line feed (CRLF) but a consistent fixed format will exceed the maximum record length and fail the edit.</li> <li>A diskette with Embedded CRLF within the data will cause the data to become skewed during upload.</li> <li>The combination of multiple media when creating extract may cause record length problems when being brought back together as one file for submittal to OSHPD through MIRCal.</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Review the contents of the file format beyond the 520 (<b>IP</b>) or 382 (<b>ED/AS</b>) character positions to determine which records are causing the error. Re-submit a new or corrected file.</p>
6.	Incorrect File Format	<p><b>IP</b> - Incorrect File Format: Record length is less than 520 bytes. All records are checked.</p> <p><b>ED/AS</b>- Incorrect File Format: Record length is less than 382 bytes. All records are checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File may have inconsistent record length, which will cause the data to be skewed.</li> <li><b>IP:</b> The last 11 characters of the record layout are unused, but must be blank. If blanks are not included, your file may actually only be 509 characters long (520 minus 11).</li> <li><b>ED/AS:</b> The file may be 372 characters or less due to optional data not reported, such as the Abstract Record Number. If</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Review the contents of the file format before the 520 (<b>IP</b>) or 382 (<b>ED/AS</b>) characters to determine which records are causing the error.</p> <p>✓ During an FTP, transfer settings such as NOTRUNC or TrimBlanks (whatever is appropriate for the transfer software being used) can be set so that the FTP process between the mainframe to a PC will not effect the file format. Most FTP software include options for conversion, truncation and whether or</p>

	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
			<p>not reported, the default value for this field is all spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The End of File &lt;EOF&gt; marker is not at the end of the last record (<b>IP</b> = <b>521</b>, <b>ED/AS</b> = <b>383</b>), but in the first position on the line <u>after</u> the last record..</li> <li>Combining multiple data types and bringing them together to create an extract may cause record length problems.</li> <li>The movement of data from one computer platform to another could affect the record length. Some common problems occur when data is FTP'd (File Transfer Protocol) from a mainframe to a personal computer. FTP programs have various settings that must be changed by facility IT staff.</li> </ul>	<p>not CRLF needs to be added.</p>
7.	Incorrect File Format	<p><b>IP</b> - Incorrect File format: No carriage control and/or line feed at bytes 521 and 522, respectively.</p> <p><b>ED/AS</b> - Incorrect File format: No carriage control and/or line feed at bytes 383 and 384, respectively.</p>	<p>There is no Carriage Control or Line Feed at the end of one or more records.</p> <p>A carriage control and line feed must be at the end of each record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IP:</b> end of each 520 bytes</li> <li><b>ED/AS:</b> end of each 382 bytes</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Open file in a text editing tool. See Page 4.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> different text editors will represent carriage control and line feed with different characters.</p> <p>✓ Add or change carriage control and/or line feed at appropriate places.</p> <p>✓ Make sure they are in right order: Carriage Control, then Line Feed</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Files will pass transmittal if there is no carriage control feed, line feed at the <u>last record</u>. All other records must have carriage control, line feed.</p>

	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
8.	Incorrect File Format	<p><b>IP</b> - Incorrect File format: No Line feed at byte 522.</p> <p><b>ED/AS</b> - Incorrect File format: No Line feed at byte 384.</p>	Line Feed should be at the end of each record.	<p>✓ <b>IP:</b> Add line feed at byte 522 on affected records. Re-submit a new or corrected file.</p> <p>✓ <b>ED/AS:</b> Add line feed at byte 384 on affected records.</p> <p>✓ Re-submit a new or corrected file.</p>
9.	Discrepancy in total number of records reported	<p>Total number of records submitted does not match the number of records entered on the Transmittal screen. There is a difference of more than 20 records.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the <u>difference</u> between the number of records submitted and the number of records entered on the Transmittal screen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total number of records in the file was compared to the total number of records specified on the Transmittal screen. There is a difference of more than 20 records.</li> </ul> <p>EXAMPLE: File contains 100 records, but user enters 75.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the discrepancy is 20 records or less, , data will pass this transmittal edit and no message will be displayed.</li> <li>Error may have occurred because the record count was off or because the wrong file was submitted.</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Verify that the correct file was submitted.</p> <p>✓ Confirm the number of records in the file and re-submit file.</p>
10.	<p><b>IP:</b> Records with Discharge Dates outside the Report Period</p> <p><b>ED/AS:</b> Records with Service Dates outside the Report Period</p>	<p><b>IP:</b> One or more records are reported with a Discharge Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period.</p> <p><b>ED/AS:</b> One or more records are reported with a Service Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the number of records</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharge Date or Service Date is Blank or an invalid value (Example: Jan 33, 2008 is an invalid value).</li> <li>Discharge Date or Service Date is a valid date value but is outside the Report Period: Less than the Report Period Begin Date or greater than the Report Period End Date.</li> <li>Discharge Date format is MMDDCCYY. Example Jan 25 2008 would be reported as 01252008.</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Verify that all records have a valid Discharge Date or Service Date within the report period.</p> <p>✓ Verify that the file for the correct report period was submitted.</p> <p>✓ Verify that the date format is correct.</p> <p>✓ Open data file and check each record for “bad” Discharge or Service Dates. Possible ways include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open file in Notepad (or other text</li> </ul>



	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
		with an incorrect Discharge Date (IP) or Service Date (ED/AS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service Date format is CCYYMMDD. Example: Jan 25 2008 would be reported as 20080125.</li> <li>Split Reports: Data file contains records for the entire report period, rather than the portion for which they are required to report.</li> </ul>	<p>editor tool) and check each record for a Discharge Date or Service Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period. The “Find” search function may be helpful for large files.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your IT staff or software vendor if they can run a report or program that identifies records with a “bad” Discharge Date or Service Date.</li> </ul> <p>✓ For Split Reports: On each file, make sure the Discharge Date or Service Date is correct for each partial report period being submitted.</p>
11.	Facility ID Number does not match the Transmittal Form	<p>Incorrect Facility ID Number reported.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The “Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs” displays the incorrect Facility ID and the number of records affected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or more of the records does not match the Facility ID Number on the Transmittal screen.</li> <li>Incorrect Facility ID Number on all records.</li> <li>Incorrect Facility ID Number on some records: 2 different Facility ID’s, one correct and one incorrect. (e.g. the parent and satellite Facility ID Numbers are reported).</li> <li>Facility ID field is blank – facility did not include ID Number on each record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IP:</b> positions 2 – 7</li> <li><b>ED/AS:</b> positions 1-6</li> </ul> </li> <li>More than one value was provided in this field. This is related to</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Was the correct file submitted?</p> <p>✓ Check the Facility ID Number on each record to verify that it is the correct number.</p> <p>✓ The Facility ID Number must be the same on every record in the file.</p> <p>✓ Correct as needed and re-submit file.</p>

	<i>Transmittal Edit</i>	<i>Error Message</i>	<i>Problem Description</i>	<i>Possible Resolution</i>
			consolidated facilities that have separate sites but submit combined data OSHDP previously allowed facilities and agents to send data within one file and OSHDP either separated the data or merged the data. With MIRCal, facilities must combine or separate their own files.	
12.	MIRCal database capacity error	MIRCal database capacity error. The number of records in the MIRCal database does not match the number of records submitted. Contact your OSHPD Analyst immediately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of records in the MIRCal database does not match the number of records submitted.</li> <li>Some capacity limitation has been reached or system is timing out.</li> </ul>	✓ Contact your OSHPD analyst immediately to report this error.